

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6057
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CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES 4469

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE MOTHERS' GROUPS

REF: (A) STATE 145584, (B) USUN 02328 NOTAL

1. EMBASSY HAS LITTLE MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE THREE WOMEN THAN THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL A. FERNANDO VACA NARVAJA IS NOTORIOUS HERE AS A TOP MONTONERO MILITANT, RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMB ATTACKS ON POLICE, POLITICIANS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, BANKS AND CLUBS, MURDER, JAIL BREAKS, THEFT, AND OTHER CRIMES. IT WOULD BE POORLY VIEWED BY MUCH OF THE ARGENTINE POPULATION AND PROBABLY MISUNDERSTOOD HERE TO RECEIVE AT A HIGH LEVEL A GROUP INCLUDING THE MOTHER OF A PERSON LARGEY SEEN AS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSIDERABLE SUFFERING AND CRIMINAL ACTS IN ARGENTINA. THE CARE OF WOLA AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO AVOID SPONSORING THE GROUP IS INDICATIVE OF SOME HESITATION TO BE CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH COSOFAM.

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2. EMBASSY IS AND HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE MOTHERS' GROUP FROM THE PLAZA DE MAYO FOR SOME TIME (REFTEL B). REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GROUP HAVE MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES TODMAN AND DERIAN AND VISITING CODELS AND ARE REGULARLY INTRODUCED TO OTHER INTERESTED

VISITORS FROM THE US AND ABROAD. WE REGULARLY FOLLOW THE MOTHERS' THURSDAY GATHERINGS. YESTERDAY (JUNE 8) WELL OVER 100 PEOPLE, INCLUDING WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN, GATHERED AT THE PLAZA DE MAYO BEFORE A LARGE CONTINGENT OF PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS AND JOURNALISTS FROM ABROAD HERE TO COVER THE WORLD CUP. (RECENTLY, THE MOTHERS HAVE NUMBERED AROUND 150 AT THE THURSDAY VIGIL.) AFTER SPEAKING WITH THE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, THE GROUP MARCHED BY TWOS DOWN THE MAIN SHOPPING MALL ON FLORIDA STREET UNTIL ONE OF THE LEADERS REPORTEDLY HAD AN ALTERCATION WITH A POLICEWOMAN AND SOME MEN DRESSED IN PLAIN CLOTHES. A POLICEMAN IN UNIFORM APPEARED AND ORDERED THE WOMAN TO BE LEFT ALONE AND THE CROWD DISPERSED, REPORTEDLY WITHOUT ARRESTS OR FURTHER INCIDENTS, ACCORDING TO THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD.

3. COMMENT: THE MOTHERS HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE NUMBERS HAVE RECENTLY SWELLED BECAUSE THEY ARE SURE THE POLICE WILL NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST THEM DURING THE WORLD CUP MATCHES.

CASTRO

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